

CLAIMS

1 1. A buffer circuit comprising:

2 a driver device;

3 an input device to receive a first set of signals and to
4 produce a second set of signals, said driver device to receive
5 said second set of signals and to output a third set of
6 signals based on said second set of signals input to said
7 driver device; and

8 a comparing device to receive said third set of signals
9 from said driver device and to produce a fourth set of signals
10 based on said third set of signals, said comparing device to
11 compare said fourth set of signals with said first set of
12 signals.

1 2. The buffer circuit of claim 1, wherein said input
2 device comprises a plurality of first multiplexor devices to
3 receive said first set of signals and at least a plurality of
4 latch devices to receive outputs from said plurality of first
5 multiplexor devices.

1 3. The buffer circuit of claim 2, wherein said input
2 device further comprises a second multiplexor device to couple
3 to an output of each of said plurality of latch devices, and a
4 latch device to couple to an output of said second multiplexor
5 device and to an input of said driver device.

1 4. The buffer circuit of claim 3, wherein said plurality
2 of latch devices operate based on a first clock signal, and
3 said latch device operates based on a second clock signal,
4 said second clock signal being faster than said first clock
5 signal.

1 5. The buffer circuit of claim 1, wherein said comparing
2 device comprises a first plurality of logic circuits and a
3 plurality of latch devices, said plurality of latch circuits
4 to output said fourth set of signals to inputs of said first
5 plurality of logic circuits, said first plurality of logic
6 circuits to further receive said first set of signals as
7 inputs and to perform a comparison based on said received
8 first set of signals and said fourth set of signals.

1 6. The buffer circuit of claim 5, wherein said plurality
2 of latch devices comprises a plurality of flip-flop circuits.

1 7. The buffer circuit of claim 5, wherein said first
2 plurality of logic circuits comprise a plurality of XOR logic
3 circuits.

1 8. The buffer circuit of claim 5, further comprising a
2 second plurality of logic circuits, each to receive an output
3 from each one of said first plurality of logic circuits.

1 9. The buffer circuit of claim 8, wherein a first one of
2 said second plurality of logic circuits comprises an AND logic
3 circuit and a second one of said second plurality of logic
4 circuits comprises an OR logic circuit.

1 10. The buffer circuit of claim 9, wherein an output of
2 said AND logic circuit represents an ALL FAIL condition and an
3 output of said OR logic circuit represents an AT LEAST ONE
4 FAIL condition.

1 11. The buffer circuit of claim 1, wherein said buffer
2 circuit is provided on a chip.

1 12. An apparatus for testing a driver device, said
2 apparatus comprising:

3 an input device to receive a first set of signals and to
4 provide a second set of signals to said driver device; and

5 a comparing device to receive a third set of signals
6 output from said driver device and to produce a fourth set of
7 signals, said comparing device to further receive said first
8 set of signals from said input device and to compare said
9 first set of signals with said fourth set of signals.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said input device
2 comprises a plurality of first multiplexor devices to receive
3 said first set of signals and at least a plurality of latch

4 devices to receive outputs from said plurality of first
5 multiplexor devices.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said input device
2 further comprises a second multiplexor device to couple to an
3 output of each of said plurality of latch devices, and a latch
4 device to couple to an output of said second multiplexor
5 device and to an input of said driver device.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said plurality of
2 latch devices operate based on a first clock signal, and said
3 latch device operates based on a second clock signal, said
4 second clock signal being faster than said first clock signal.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said comparing
2 device comprises a first plurality of logic circuits and a
3 plurality of latch devices, said plurality of latch circuits
4 to output said fourth set of signals to inputs of said first
5 plurality of logic circuits, said first plurality of logic
6 circuits to further receive said first set of signals as
7 inputs and to perform a comparison based on said received
8 first set of signals and said fourth set of signals.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said plurality of
2 latch devices comprises a plurality of flip-flop circuits.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said first
2 plurality of logic circuits comprise a plurality of XOR logic
3 circuits.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a
2 second plurality of logic circuits, each to receive an output
3 from each one of said first plurality of logic circuits.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a first one of
2 said second plurality of logic circuits comprises an AND logic
3 circuit and a second one of said second plurality of logic
4 circuits comprises an OR logic circuit.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein an output of said
2 AND logic circuit represents an ALL FAIL condition and an
3 output of said OR logic circuit represents an AT LEAST ONE
4 FAIL condition.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a
2 device to determine a difference in time between the AT LEAST
3 ONE FAIL CONDITION and the ALL FAIL CONDITION, said device to
4 compare said determined difference with a predetermined
5 difference to determine if said driver device is defective.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each of said
2 fourth set of signals is delayed based on strobe signals.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said apparatus is
2 provided on a chip with said driver device.

1 25. A method of testing a driver device, said method
2 comprising:
3 receiving a first set of signals at a first component;
4 transmitting a second set of signals from said first
5 component to said driver device, said second set of signals
6 being based on said first set of signals;
7 receiving a third set of signals from said driver device;
8 providing a fourth set of signals and said first set of
9 signals to a second component, said fourth set of signals
10 being based on said third set of signals; and
11 comparing said fourth set of signal with said first set
12 of signals at said second component.

1 26. The method of claim 25, further comprising delaying
2 each one of said third plurality of signals so as to provide
3 signals corresponding to said fourth set of signals.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein said first component,
2 said second component and said driver device are all provided
3 on a chip.

1 28. The method of claim 25, further comprising outputting
2 a first signal when one of said fourth set of signals does not
3 match a corresponding one of said first set of signals.

1 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising outputting
2 a second signal when all of said fourth set of signals do not
3 match corresponding ones of said second set of signals.

1 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising comparing
2 a time difference between said first signal and said second
3 signal with a predetermined time difference so as to determine
4 if said driver device is defective.

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